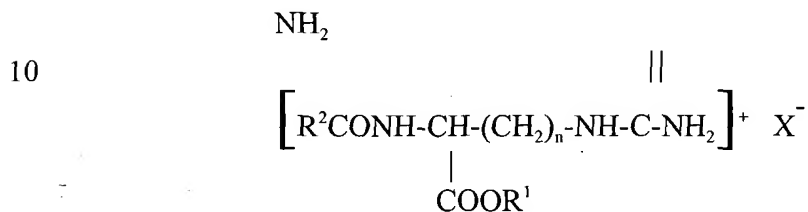


CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A stable aqueous antiplaque oral composition comprised of
 - (a) a safe and effective amount of an antibacterial ester represented by the formula



15 where R¹ is an alkyl chain of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, and R² is an alkyl chain of 6 to 30 carbon atoms and X is an anion,

- (b) a surfactant;
(c) a humectant; and,
(d) water

20 wherein the composition is free of a monohydric alcohol.

2. The composition of claim 1 wherein $n = 3$.

3. The composition of claim 1 wherein the antibacterial ester is the hydrochloride salt of ethyl lauroyl arginine.

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4. The composition according to claim 1 wherein the concentration of the antibacterial ester compound is present at a concentration of about 0.02% to 2% by weight.

30 5. The composition according to claim 1 wherein the surfactant is a mixture of nonionic and zwitterionic surfactants.

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6. A composition of claim 1 wherein said polyhydric alcohol is propylene glycol.

7. The composition according to claim 1 wherein the humectant is a mixture of polyhydric alcohols.

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